



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 8**  
**999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 500**  
**DENVER, CO 80202-2466**  
**Phone 800-227-8917**  
**<http://www.epa.gov/region08>**

March 28, 2006

Ref: 8EPR-SR

Vernon Riley  
3724 Highway 2 South  
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Riley,

I have been informed by EPA contractors that you have a water infiltration problem in the basement of your property, located at 3724 Highway 2 South in Libby, Montana, and that you believe this was caused by the EPA removal work done in October 2005.

As shown in the attached photos, there is a pipe chase on the side of the basement wall, approximately five (5) feet below ground surface, which provides a path for water to enter the basement. These photos also indicate evidence of pre-existing water damage in the basement. I understand that when Elzhon Anderson visited your property during a particularly rainy day, water was surging into the basement via the pipe chase.

Through conversations with EPA contractors, you have expressed interest in EPA helping to correct the situation. Two possible alternatives that you identified are to dig a deep sump in the basement, or permanently seal the drain in the wall. I have been informed that your son is a General Contractor in Libby, and has offered to dig a sump for \$500.

EPA did not install the pipe chase or cause the pre-existing water damage in the basement, however EPA acknowledges that delays in re-sodding your yard, and ground settlement adjacent to the foundation have contributed to the recent infiltration of water. EPA accepts partial responsibility for the recent events and is willing to offer you a \$250 credit to decide which alternative is best for you. Because of government regulations EPA is not able to issue you cash, but will provide a credit to a contractor, a lumber supply company, or other vendor of your choosing.

In the spring when the soil has dried out, EPA will add additional soil near the house to allow for drainage away from the house. The landscaping will also be completed, including sod installation.

Please contact Elzhon Anderson at 406-283-1436 when you have decided on which vendor to issue the credit to. If you have questions regarding this letter, you can contact Elzhon or me at the EPA Information Center at 406-293-6194.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cirian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Cirian, P.E.  
EPA Remedial Project Manager

Attachments

cc: File  
CIC  
Elzhon Anderson